

Name of Committee: Brookline School Population and Capacity Exploration (B-SPACE)

Meeting Date: April 29, 2013

Time: 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Location: Town Hall,  
School Committee Room

Committee Members - present marked with "x"

Betsy DeWitt	x	Philip Kramer	x
Alan Morse	x	Bill Lupini	
George Cole	x	Michael Sandman	x
Katherine Craven	x	Rebecca Stone	x
Lisa Crossley	x	Fred Wang	
Ken Goldstein	x	Neil Wishinsky	x
Mel Kleckner			

Superintendent Lupini along with School Committee members Helen Charlupski and Susan Ditkoff left at 7:00 PM to attend the Advisory Committee meeting which was considering a new version of the school system's budget.

1. Co-Chairman Morse previewed ideas about further and/or different community outreach. He mentioned the possibility of:

- commissioning a survey of Town wide opinions regarding our alternative space plan ideas;
- Organizing several forum discussions by groups representing the various Town constituencies.

Mr. Morse indicated that these and perhaps other communication ideas would come up at a future Committee meeting and that this preview was for the sole purpose of alerting the Committee in advance in order to give members an opportunity to think about these or other outreach vehicles in advance.

2. A brief discussion of the merits of commissioning a town-wide survey to gather information to inform recommendations on alternative space options. M. Sandman suggested that a question about number and ages of children in the respondent's family be included. No decision was reached, but it was agreed that the topic should be discussed further.

3. Co-Chairman Morse asked the Committee for feedback/impressions from the first public hearing (which all Committee members had attended). With the use of the BATV video of the hearing, Ms. Coyne, and Co-Chairmen Dewitt and Morse had collaborated to draft a summary of the participant comments and questions which emerged from the hearing. Committee members felt the summary was a good reflection of what they had heard, and offered some suggested changes having to do mostly with the spelling of the names of certain participants. Members observed that there were indications that some speakers did not have enough factual information. It was agreed that the comments should be posted on the website after corrections. Following receipt of these suggested changes, Ms. Coyne will post on the B-SPACE website both a link to the BATV video, and the final version of the summary.

4. Co-Chairman DeWitt then asked the Committee for responses to the sub-committee organization suggestions memo sent out by both Co-Chairmen (Ms. Coyne will post this memo on the B-SPACE website). The Committee was receptive to the idea and the assignments. George Cole suggested that in order to produce the best possible recommendations to the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen within the required time frame, and in light of the limited time available to the otherwise hard working volunteer committee members, it made sense to seek professional consulting support in developing appropriate information of the highest quality. Many on the Committee agreed. The Co-Chairmen agreed to explore this possibility. It was also recommended that, in addition to temporary classrooms, permanent expansion on existing K-8 sites be should studied as an option.
5. Co-chair Morse indicated that the architectural firm HMFH, already contracted to assess expansion possibilities at the high school had reported to the School Committee Capital Subcommittee with preliminary observations. It might be possible to extend their contract to examine other sites. HMFH is scheduled to make an updated presentation to the next (5/6) B-SPACE meeting, and will respond to a request that it assess one site on Cypress street occupied by a Partners' physician group adjacent and above the MBTA station near the high school.
6. Ms. DeWitt explored with the Committee the new schedule, namely to meet weekly on almost all future Monday evenings, either in full committee or in sub-committees, with the objective of producing draft recommendations on Monday June 3d so that these draft recommendations could be shared with those attending the public hearing now rescheduled for June 12, with the then final recommendations ready for the School Committee on Tuesday June 24, well in advance of the School Committee's scheduled July 9 workshop where the principal agenda is to discuss the recommendations and make a final decision.
7. The schedule through Wednesday June 12th is:  
  
Monday, May 6 –PRESENTATION BY HMFH on assessment of expansion options at BHS  
Monday, May 13  
Monday, May 20  
Monday, May 29  
Wednesday, May 29  
Monday, June 3 (draft recommendations)  
[Monday, June 10, if needed]  
Wednesday, June 12 PUBLIC HEARING  
Monday, June 17  
Monday, June 24  
Monday, July 1
8. The committee broke into subcommittees to consider their assigned tasks and develop work plans. Subcommittees were asked to develop questions and additional scope of work that could be part of a consulting contract.

1. Financial Analysis and Feasibility: Katherine Craven, Michael Sandman, Sean Cronin, Peter Rowe

Articulate the capital, operating, and opportunity costs (i.e. impact on other projects) for different options under consideration in order to inform the feasibility of the following options and size of likely override(s):

- a) Baseline scenario (Costs of increase in student enrollment regardless of option chosen);
- b) a new K-8 facility (assume 550 students), with initial years at Old Lincoln;
- c) a new 8/9 facility (assume 1300 students), with first three years using Old Lincoln for an 8th grade only school;
- d) a new 8/9 facility that shares specialist space (gym, art, etc.) with BHS, with first three years at Old Lincoln for 8th grade only;
- e) temporary expanded deployment of modular units, building expansions for common spaces, double/overlapping sessions at BHS.
- f) permanent additional classrooms with any additional common spaces at each K-8 site.**

2. K-8 New Facility & Redistricting: Ken Goldstein, Rebecca Stone, Neil Wishinsky

Outline/identify potential locations for a new K-8 (550 students) with feasibility of each (including time needed and cost/implications of potential purchase if indicated) and describe/model redistricting necessary to implement. Redistricting implications of adding **permanent additional classrooms with any additional common spaces at each K-8 site.**

Estimates must include amount of space freed in existing K-8s and forecast of whether this option would allow re-inclusion of any pre-K classrooms in the K-8 buildings.

Note: Town Counsel has been asked to update information on various Town-owned parcels to help inform this discussion as well as that of the next subcommittee.

3. BHS Expansion: Betsy Dewitt, Fred Wang, Philip Kramer

Work with/review the BHS Concept Study to identify the cost and feasibility of options for BHS physical expansion, assuming these scenarios:

- a) 2,500 students in grades 9-12 by 2022 on the current campus (identify if/how to use Old Lincoln School – limited to 500 students -- as part of a BHS expansion);
- b) Classrooms for 1900 students in grades 10-12, with shared common spaces (except cafeteria) for a possible 8/9 school of 1300 students to be sited on or near the Greenough/Cypress Street campus. (Cross-check with Subcommittee on Finance)

4. New 8/9 School with 8th grade OLS Transition, or other concept: Lisa Crossley, George Cole, Alan Morse (Bill and Jennifer will need to be consulted re (b) below)

Sketch a full picture of a new grade 8/9 school for Brookline, including:

- a) pros/cons of separately sited facility or co-located facility with BHS;
- b) possible pedagogical innovations/concepts that could reasonably be applied to a grade 8/9 school; implications and pros/cons for the existing K-8s (e.g. how many classrooms freed, possible changes in grades 6, 7 pedagogy, how to preserve cohesive neighborhood schools).